

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04486 051129Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SAA-01 SES-02 OMB-01 /065 W
-----113785 051134Z /21

O 051041Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9085

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR LE SY IS

SUBJ: KHADDAM MEETS WITH SARKIS: AUGUST 3, 1978

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL HALIM KHADDAM AND SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF HIKMAT AL-SHIHABI MET AT BAABDA PALACE AUGUST 3 WITH PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS, PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL HOSS, FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS AND ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY. BOUTROS SAID THE TWO SIDES HAD DISCUSSED THE "STATE OF SECURITY AND THE FUTURE OF CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES" AS WELL AS THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH.
2. ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, NO DEFINITIVE AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED, ALTHOUGH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TENTATIVELY INDICATED IT FAVORED EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTH PERIOD, BEGINNING IN OCTOBER. (THE RIGHTIST PARTIES, PARTICULARLY CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S NLP, HAVE INSISTED THAT THE ADF LEAVE WHEN ITS CURRENT MANDATE EXPIRES.)
3. WHILE AL AMAL SAID THAT SYRIA WANTED A "FACE-SAVING" WAY OUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04486 051129Z

OF THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT, KHADDAM IN TALKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE LEAVING BEIRUT SOUNDED UNCOMPROMISING. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE LEGITIMATE LEBANESE FORCES AND INDICATED THAT THIS WAS THE CENTRAL MISSION OF THE SYRIAN PRESENCE HERE.

4. LEFTIST AS SAFIR AND PRO-SYRIAN ASH SHARQ REPORTED THAT THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAD FOCUSED ON THE ENTRY OF LEBANESE

TROOPS INTO SOUTH LEBANON. ACCORDING TO ASH SHARQ, KHADDAM STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES TO REASSERT THEMSELVES IN THE SOUTH, CLOSE THE "GOOD FENCE" AND PUT A DEFINITIVE END TO THE CURRENT COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND "CERTAIN LEBANESE ELEMENTS." KHADDAM ALSO POINTED OUT THAT "THE LEBANESE STATE CANNOT POSSIBLY CONSOLIDATE ITS AUTHORITY WHEN CERTAIN OFFICERS WHO ARE CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT COOPERATE WITH THE ENEMY," ASH SHARQ SAID.

5. AFTERWARDS KHADDAM TOLD THE PRESS, "WE ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE ADVANCE OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN THE SOUTH MUST CONTINUE, AND THE ISRAELI CAMPAIGN BE CONFRONTED." HE DESCRIBED THE ISRAELI ATTITUDE AS "AGGRESSIVE AGAINST ALL OF LEBANON." (NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN TOLD RIGHTIST LE REVEIL: "I HEARD THAT THE SYRIAN MINISTER ASKED THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY BE SENT TO SOUTH LEBANON. IT IS NOT UP TO MR. KHADDAM TO SAY THIS, BUT THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES.)

6. KHADDAM DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS "POSITIVE AND FRUITFUL" AND BOUTROS SAID VISIT "CAN BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS." AN NAHAR SAID THE VISIT HAD CLEARED THE ATMOSPHERE, BUT QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING THE "MEETINGS WERE NOT FULLY CONCLUSIVE." L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTED ON AUGUST 3 THAT HOSS AND BOUTROS WOULD VISIT DAMASCUS NEXT WEEK TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS.

7. ASKED BY REPORTERS TO COMMENT ON THE VOTE BY THE U.S. HOUSE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04486 051129Z

OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CUT ECONOMIC AID TO SYRIA, KHADDAM REPLIED: "OUR STAND IN LEBANON IS NOT LINKED TO THAT OF AMERICA OR OTHER STATES. AT THE TIME OF THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON, SYRIA INTERVENED AND STOPPED THE WAR DESPITE AMERICA." END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. COMMENT: BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE VAGUE OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS ON THE VISIT ARE REMINISCENT OF THOSE SURROUNDING PREVIOUS LEBANESE-SYRIAN MEETINGS. AS BEFORE, THEY SUGGEST THAT LITTLE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES, E.G., THE EXPLOSIVE SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT OR THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE ADF. MOREOVER, WHILE BOTH SIDES AGREED ON THE NEED FOR THE ARMY TO DEPLOY SOUTH, THEY EVIDENTLY REACHED NO FIRM ACCORD ON HOW TO DEAL WITH MAJOR HADDAD OR THE GOOD FENCE. AS PRO-SYRIAN BA'ATH PARTY HEAD ASSIM QANSUH NOTED, THE TWO SIDES "EXCHANGED IDEAS" BUT TOOK NO FINAL DECISIONS.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780321-0804
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780893/aaaadaim.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52761d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1824404
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHADDAM MEETS WITH SARKIS: AUGUST 3, 1978
TAGS: PEPR, LE, SY, IS, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM), (SARKIS, ILYAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52761d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014